AUTUMN

New weather radio voices debut

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were switched to the new computerized voices. The NWS first used computer synthesized voice technology in 1997. Automating NOAA Weather Radio enabled the National Weather Service to send out multiple independent warnings over multiple transmitters simultaneously. This resulted in speedier delivery of severe weather warnings with more lead time. Now, advances in artificial speech technology make it possible to provide a service that is more understandable. NOAA Weather Radio, sometimes referred to as "The voice of the NWS", allows listeners to receive continuous weather broadcasts, including forecasts and severe weather bulletins, directly from the National Weather Service forecast offices, virtually at the time they are issued. The radio speech processors are linked directly to the National Weather Service's main computer system, allowing a forecast or warning to be broadcast immediately upon its issuance.

NOAA weather receivers have an alarm system that alerts listeners. When a severe weather watch or warning is issued within a listener's area, the latest technology in receivers allows the listener to hear alarms for only the counties that they select.

NOAA weather radio transmits from a network of more than 720 stations nationwide...and can be heard by 85 to 90 percent of the population of the country. As a part of the National Weather Service modernization program...more improvements can be expected for the NOAA Weather Radio system as the technology becomes available. Stay tuned!

NOAA Weather Radio

Nationally, NOAA Weather Radio currently broadcasts from over 720 FM transmitters on seven frequencies in the VHF band. These frequencies lie between 162.400 and 162.550 MHz. These frequencies are outside the normal AM or FM broadcast bands. NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts NWS forecasts, warnings, observations and other important weather information 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Weather information is repeated every 3 to 5 minutes and is routinely updated, with updates more frequent in changing conditions.

By design, NWR coverage is normally limited to an area within 40 miles of the transmitter. The quality of what is heard is dictated by the distance from the transmitter, local terrain and the quality and location of the receiver. Persons living in an area with flat terrain or in an elevated area can expect good and reliable reception while those in valleys or in mountainous areas may experience limited reception.

The NWS in Little Rock currently operates 10 NOAA Weather Radios with plans for several more coming on line. These radios are:

Radio Site	*Call Sign*	*Frequency*
Little Rock	WXJ55	162.550
Mount Ida	KXI92	162.425
Mena	KXI97	162.400
Russellville	WWF96	162.525
Morrilton	KXI91	162.475
Star City	WXJ54	162.400
Gurdon	WXJ48	162.475
Mountain View	WXL66	162.450
Russell	KXI96	162.400
Yellville	WXL66	162.450